

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 085333
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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 085333

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECRETARY'S DISCUSSION
WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER
MARCH 31

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO THE DISCUSSION DURING THE SECRETARY'S
BONN STOPOVER OF TABLING ADDITIONAL WESTERN DATA IN THE
MBFR NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA, YOU SHOULD CALL ON FOREIGN
MINISTER GENSCHER AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY AND MAKE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 085333

2. WHEN SECRETARY VANCE DISCUSSED MBFR WITH CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER MARCH 31, THE
SECRETARY NOTED THAT HE BELIEVED THE WEST WOULD HAVE TO
TABLE DATA ON NATIONAL FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS IN
THE MBFR TALKS IF WE WERE EVER GOING TO GET TO THE
HEART OF THE DATA DISCUSSION.

3. IN THE SAME CONVERSATION, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER DESCRIBED AN ALTERNATIVE TO TABLING NATIONAL DATA, UNDER WHICH THE WEST WOULD TABLE FIGURES ON US FORCES, AND A COLLECTIVE FIGURE FOR ALLIED FORCES, ON GROUNDS THAT THIS BREAKDOWN OF DATA WOULD CORRESPOND TO THE WESTERN NEGOTIATING PROGRAM. ON THE SAME GROUNDS, THE EAST WOULD BE ASKED TO TABLE NATIONAL FORCE DATA, SINCE THE EASTERN PROPOSAL WOULD REQUIRE NATIONAL MBFR OBLIGATIONS, RATHER THAN COLLECTIVE ONES. SECRETARY VANCE UNDERTOOK TO CONSIDER FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S PROPOSAL.

4. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO US THAT THE EAST WOULD BE LIKELY TO AGREE TO THIS FORMULA, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE IT TO GO FURTHER ALONG LINES IT HAS ALREADY REFUSED TO CONSIDER--I.E. TO DISCUSS US AND SOVIET DATA WITHOUT OTHER ALLIED FIGURES ON THE TABLE. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE AN EXPLICIT LINKAGE BETWEEN DATA TABLED FOR DISCUSSION AND THE RESPECTIVE REDUCTION PROPOSALS FOR THE TWO SIDES WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE ANY DISCLAIMER THAT WE MIGHT MAKE THAT THE TABLING OF DATA DOES NOT PREJUDICE THE NEGOTIATING POSITION OF EITHER SIDE. ON THE CONTRARY, IT WOULD MAKE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE WEST SUBSEQUENTLY TO TABLE DATA IN ANY OTHER FORM WITHOUT PREJUDICING ITS NEGOTIATING PROGRAM.

5. AS FOR TABLING DATA BY UNIT FOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND THE FRG IS ALSO CONSIDERING, OUR VIEW AT THIS POINT IS THAT SUCH DATA WOULD NOT BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL FIGURES IN DETERMINING THE SOURCES OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FIGURES.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 085333

6. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE WEST WILL NEED TO TABLE NATIONAL FIGURES, AND OBTAIN NATIONAL DATA ON EASTERN PARTICIPANTS, IF THE DATA DISCUSSION IN VIENNA IS TO BE PURSUED. IF WE DO NOT TAKE THIS STEP, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE INITIATIVE IN THE DISCUSSION, OR EFFECTIVELY CONTEST THE EASTERN ASSERTION THAT APPROXIMATE GROUND FORCE MANPOWER PARITY ALREADY EXISTS.

7. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT WE SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO ASK THE EAST TO GIVE ITS NATIONAL FIGURES, AND OFFER SIMULTANEOUSLY TO GIVE WESTERN NATIONAL DATA, AT THE OPENING OF THE NEXT MBFR ROUND IN EARLY MAY. WE BELIEVE THAT FURTHER DELAY WOULD PREJUDICE THE WESTERN POSITION ON DISPARITIES, AND ENABLE THE EASTERN SIDE TO ADVANCE ITS POSITION MORE EFFECTIVELY. WE WOULD HOPE FOR FRG AGREEMENT TO JOIN A CONSENSUS AUTHORIZING THE AD HOC GROUP TO TABLE NATIONAL DATA FOR WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT ROUND. WE BELIEVE NATIONAL FIGURES MUST BE

ACCOMPANIED BY AN APPROPRIATE DISCLAIMER, AS WE HAVE

ALREADY SUGGESTED, AND THAT THIS WILL FULLY PROTECT THE
WESTERN POSITION ON COLLECTIVITY.

8. YOU SHOULD EXPRESS THE SECRETARY'S HOPE THAT GENSCHER

WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE EARLY CONSIDERATION TO THIS MATTER.
YOU SHOULD ALSO REQUEST THAT HE INFORM CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT OF OUR VIEWS ON NEXT STEPS IN THE DATA DISCUSSION,
AND ON THE DESIRABILITY OF REACHING CONSENSUS IN THE
ALLIANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED BEFORE THE NEXT ROUND OPENS IN
EARLY MAY.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
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MARCH 31
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